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Patrick Administration Announces Sustainable Development Award Program *December Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference will Showcase Winning Projects*

BOSTON – The Patrick Administration today announced it is soliciting applications for this year's Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Awards – a program that recognizes the efforts of communities and private sector partners to design and build projects that conserve energy and other resources, enhance the local environment, and meet other criteria of the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles.

Award applications are due November 9, and selected projects will be featured at the 2007 Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference in Worcester on December 7, and on the Governor's Smart Growth/Smart Energy Program web page www.mass.gov/smartgrowth.

To be eligible for an award, projects must have been completed between July 1, 2002 and July 1, 2007, located within the Commonwealth, and proposed by public sector entities such as local city councils or planning departments, transit agencies, or regional economic development commissions. Projects will be judged by an interagency team comprising smart growth experts from the Executive Offices of Transportation and Public Works, Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Housing and Economic Development.

Judges will choose up to eight award-winning projects based their advancement of the state's Sustainable Development Principles. Components of these principles include: supporting revitalization of community centers and neighborhoods; concentrating development in compact communities that conserve land and integrate multiple uses; supporting community planning to ensure social, economic and environmental justice; expanding land and water conservation and protecting and restoring natural resources and cultural and historic landscapes; expanding renewable energy and reducing waste of water, energy and materials; increasing housing opportunities; increasing access to a variety of transportation options; attracting jobs; fostering

sustainable natural resource-based businesses such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and supporting the development and implementation of local and regional plans.

Other criteria used to evaluate projects include effectiveness, level of innovation, extent of partnerships, and whether a project can serve as a model for others.

For detailed eligibility guidelines and application, go to www.mass.gov/smartgrowth .

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